

The 2009 Queensland Rogaine Championships – Paul Frylink August 2009

The 2009 Queensland Rogaine Championships held on 8/9 August at Manumbar (Manumbar Muster) was a significant event for Tim McIntyre and myself. Over the past 13 years, we have teamed up 24 times for rogaines and while we have generally scored well (achieving 2nd place 8 times) this was our first win together!

We were both delighted and pleasantly surprised with the win as not only did we see a couple of formidable teams lined up, but we have now adopted a “civilised” approach to rogaines in that we don’t run and for 24 hour events, we plan two loops with a sleep at the HH.

Now, it has to be said that the number of competitors in the 24 hour event was disappointingly low, but we feel quite justified in accepting the win as we put in a solid performance – maintaining a consistent pace with no major navigation errors and sticking to our original route which saw us walking about 75km in just under 19 hours.

The Planning

Driving to the event on Saturday morning, we could see that the countryside looked like good rogaing country – lightly timbered, mostly gently undulating with no major hills that we could see. With this knowledge, we started planning our course.

While planning our course, an obvious demarcation line running roughly north and south from the HH appeared to us. It was decided that the area to the east of this line would be ideal for our second loop. So, we would first head to the west, the challenge now being which controls to leave out.

The temptation was there to join all the dots, but common sense prevailed once the map scale sank in. Eventually, we settled on two loops with straight line distances of about 43km and 26km. Our first loop headed north-west from the HH through control no. 40 and returned to the HH via control no. 26. We estimated that this loop should take us less than 14 hours – having us back at the HH by 2am.

The plan was then to rest for a couple of hours and head out after 4am for our second loop.

Our second loop headed north-east through control 11 and travelled generally clockwise returning to the HH via control 31.

We estimated that our second loop should take us less than 8 hours - this loop had a number of contingency plans factored in allowing us to add or remove controls as conditions dictated.

The Execution – loop 1

As it turned out, we travelled better than anticipated - maybe it was the bottle of red wine Tim said he had back at the HH..., but we managed to complete our first loop in 12 hours – arriving back at the HH right on midnight.

Our afternoon went quite smoothly, walking briskly, navigating well and enjoying the open countryside. We arrived at the water drop near control 33 late in the afternoon and treated ourselves to a well earned rest and something to eat. After a short break and conscious of the limited daylight left in the day, we pushed on hoping to find the next three controls before it go dark. We were aware that moonrise was not until 7:30pm – this meant that the first couple of hours after sunset would be in total darkness, so we wanted to position ourselves in terrain which was easier to navigate through in darkness. We achieved our objective by stumbling out onto the road near control 81 before having to resort to head torches.

The darkness was now well and truly upon us and walking down the road towards our attack point for control 67, we had to be careful not to be too distracted by the spectacle of a night sky unpolluted by city or moonlight. The next couple of hours involved very deliberate and careful navigation, but our efforts were rewarded with relatively quick and straightforward control finds.

The moon eventually poked its head above the horizon and as the evening wore on, the moon became more and more useful, illuminating the landscape, making the job of navigating quite a bit easier.

At about 10:30pm, we chanced a meeting with a landowner who was returning from helping out at the HH. We were heading for control 45 - with a wave of his arm in its general direction, he comforted us by announcing that “it was way to buggery over there”. With that helpful advice, we bid him good night and soldiered on.

We were starting to get tired now evidenced by the fact that as we descended the spur towards control 93, I really struggled to focus on the map and could not see that it was in a saddle (I really must accept defeat and get some glasses....).

After control 93, we went up and over the hill towards control 26. I found the descent to control 26 and on to the road beyond particularly trying – by now I had really had enough of kicking unseen logs and rocks in the long grass and the prospect of putting my feet up with a nice warm meal next to the HH fire was very appealing.

At midnight we strode into the HH, then proceeded to enjoy some good food, company and the warmth of the fire for a while. At about 1am we eventually climbed into our sleeping bags for some well earned rest – agreeing to get going again around 4am.

Loop 2

I opened my eyes and checked the time – 4:08am, time to get up. We dressed warmly, had some breakfast and a cup of tea - eventually dragging ourselves away from the warmth of the HH fire to stroll off into the chilly countryside towards control 11.

We didn't have the best of starts – walking too far up the broad spur on which 11 was located. Realising we had gone too far, we turned around and headed back down finding the control this time. On the way to 70, we were lulled into following some tracks – nearly missing the control. Picking up the error of our ways, we were soon at the control.

After this shaky start, we settled into a rhythm with no further navigational issues and it wasn't long before the sky started showing signs of imminent dawn. It was at about control 72 where we were finally able to pack our head torches away - the feeling which comes with dawn is hard to describe – being able to see where you are going and not stumble over things, birds starting to call, Tim starting to accelerate as usual...

And so we soldiered on, finding the controls easily now - stopping briefly at a water point for a rest. The morning slowly warmed up allowing us to shed our thermal gear. We were travelling quite well to our original plan, but where was everybody? The only issues we had were some unmapped pine plantations on the southern part of the course, but routes around these were easily found. At control 104, a quick calculation of time and distance remaining suggested we were still on track to finish our original plan. Only three controls to go now – 52, 60, and finally 30 then negotiating the last of what felt like millions of fences, we strolled into the HH at 11:40am – mission complete.

Many thanks to Gordon and the team - great country, great course, great food, great weather – a fabulous event.

Our course details

Loop 1 (47km)

HH 40 94 32 74 101 55 46 84 25 65 95 37 W 33 61 103 56 81 67 85 75 48 80 66 45 93 26 HH

Loop-2 (28km)

HH 11 70 30 72 83 62 53 W 92 35 63 73 12 86 104 52 60 31 HH

Total score = 2500

Time on course = 18:45

Actual distance walked = 75km

Average speed = 4 km/h

Refer attached Google earth KML or PDF files for course map and our route.

Some other useless statistics...

- [32 = Number of Rogaines Tim has done \(over 13 years\)](#)
- [72 = Number of Rogaines Paul has done \(over 25 years\)](#)
- 24 = Number of Rogaines Tim and Paul have done together (over 13 years)
- 01 = Number of wins we have had as a team